

Monday, Jan. 4, 1971

THE WASHINGTON POST

DISTRICT LINE. By Bill Gold

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Of 1971

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Fourth graders at the Holly Park Elementary School in College Park all signed a lovely Christmas card for the children at the hospital and tucked a \$15 check inside it. The Past Councilors Club of Barbara Frietchie Council No. 44, Daughters of America, sent me \$25 together with wishes for "loyalty, love and patriotism" in the new year.

Two more Navy groups checked in. The first was the Navy Manpower Programs Support Activity, which collected \$43. The second was the Chesapeake Division of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, which engineered an additional \$100 boost to the Navy's already praiseworthy total.

The money that can be diverted to charity through the simple expedient of not exchanging intramural holiday cards in large offices is again reaching truly astonishing levels this year. At the State National Bank on Rockville Pike, \$74.34 was raised. At the Government Sales division of Itek Business Products in Falls Church, it was \$80. In the Construction Statistics Division of the Bureau of the Census, a precise count yielded an \$87.40 tally. At Value Engineering, the Producibility Division's value to the hospital this year rose to \$109.08. If your educated guess as to the Strayer Collego no-card savings was \$148, you get an A+. Supervis-

ors of Plate Printing at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing got on the bandwagon and found that they didn't have to send out \$150 worth of cards. (These are the men, incidentally, who are responsible for the production of postage stamps, food coupons, government securities and all our paper money. They're nice people to have on your side.) And the no-card technique brought \$155 from another group with which good relations are always advisable, the General Accounting Office. This contribution came from GAO's Washington Regional Office.

To the heartwarming Shannon & Luchs gift previously reported we can now add \$120 contributed by the Residential Sales staff of the Uptown Office. There it was gifts rather than cards that weren't exchanged. A \$200 check from employees of Lambda Corporation was accompanied by a note that said: "Once again, Lambda employees wished each other the warmest holiday greetings in the warmest way possible: a contribution to Children's Hospital."

Isn't that nice? The next time you need a Lambda, I hope you buy it from these friendly people.

Instead of exchanging gifts at their annual Christmas party, employees of National Labor-Association Processing Co. exchanged reminders that "the hospital with the built-in deficit" was asking for help with the financial burden of providing medical care for needy children. A tidy \$310 was raised. The Stidham Tire Company's hired hands came through with a comparable amount, \$328 to be precise, by not exchanging Christmas cards.

Both cards and parties were packed up to the tune

of \$605 by three secret groups in an anonymous agency. (I'm sorry, that's wrong; please change it to "three anonymous groups in a secret agency.")

Inasmuch as the \$605 has to be credited to somebody, we'll list it as coming from the Child Improvement Agency, which is sometimes better known by its initials.

To conclude today's accounting of funds that have arrived for Children's Hospital, I would like to tell you about a local teacher—one of those idealistic but not very practical gals who has a thing about children being the strength and salvation of our country.

"Last year," she wrote, "I sent you a check for \$68 that my class of 30 children collected for Children's Hospital. The children had been so enthusiastic about the project that when I wrote to you last year I mentioned that this year I would run it as an all-school program."

Poor dear! She just didn't realize that one year's enthusiasm can't be relied upon to carry over until the next year. So she went ahead with her campaign to get the other classrooms to join in (and you know how difficult that sort of project is).

But somehow she came up with \$1,047.14 contributed by the pupils at the Chevy Chase Elementary School (Rosemary Street and Hillcrest Place), and I simply do not know the right words with which to express my surprise, my gratitude and my admiration. My hat is off to all who helped.

When we stopped counting last week, we had \$30,537.39 in the bank. Today's total of \$3,661.96 moves us up to \$34,199.35, and now I am no longer willing to concede that we will fall below \$50,000 this year.